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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.



AN ARTISTIC PORTIERE.

IN this page we give an engraving of an artistic hanging, designed by Mr. Joseph Fleming for a white and gold room, that is, the furniture in white and the prevailing decoration in gold. The body of the curtain is made of soft material, such as India silk of a pale yellowish tint.

The flowers are of white silk, stitched on with gold, the circle back of them being of old gold. The upper band is of yellow, a couple of shades darker than the body of the curtain, while the festoons are embroidered in gold with the ribbons in white.

MINOR ARTS OF DECORATION.

THE most costly wall paper hangings are those painted by hand.

In line and floral designs, geometrical arrangement having been determined on, allows in this of much variation in detail, such as takes away the appearance of monotonous uniformity. Hitherto water colors or the tempera process have been applied to wall paper, but the refinement to which printing in oil colors on paper have been carried, are now occasionally displayed in this department. The designs should be covered with a transparent varnish.

Good staining should not have the aspect of paint, and consequently care is to be exercised in not having the stain too strong. Vegetative stains are obtainable by simmering or parboiling the substances, and diluting according to requirements with water, or where it is not wished to raise the grain of the wood, they may be steeped in spirits of wine. A spirit solution can be added to the spirit varnish; for oil varnishes, however, the best plan is to stain the turpentine and not the oil. Water stains should be applied hot, but this is not necessary with spirits of wine.

The paper of which wall hangings are composed are of a porous character and well sized, the size aiding in interlocking the colors. Paint applied to the walls previously to papering is an excellent preservative. For attachment to a painted surface rosin may be added to flour paste, the mixture being heated to the boiling point, and, on cooling, thinned with a solution of gum arabic.

Leather ornamental art in flower and leaf work is carried out by outlining the leaves and petals on the leather and then cutting these with scissors or penknife. The leather is then soaked in warm water, rolled and pressed. Mid rib, smaller ribs, reticulations, etc., are made with small ivory modeling tools. The undulating direction is given by the various lobes of the fingers or tools that will produce the same effect when wet.

Tendrils and stalks are made by twisting and pinching narrow strips of the leather while wet; and in some cases the leather is rolled round thin brass or copper wire. The parts are attached to each other or to the ground by glue and small pins after being painted over with a thin solution of parchment or size. The ground, whether wood or leather, should also be varnished. The whole work is to be finally coated with copal or mastic varnish.

PLAIN white china is in constant and moderate demand. The question is often asked if plain, white ware is fashionable. To this it may be answered that fine white china is never really out of date with many persons. There are conservative people belonging to the old regime, who can never enjoy modern ideas, and to whom white china, family silver and fine snowy linen, with a few choice pieces of cut glass, are productive of more comfort than all of the ultra-fashionable decorated ware in the world. Indeed, it has become an established fact that fine wares of all sorts may be used with perfect propriety, so long as due regard is given to the general fitness of things.

Granite ware is rapidly improving in quality, and with the present advance in the beauty and excellence of home productions we shall soon have but little need of foreign makes.

The ordinary English dinner service numbers from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty pieces, each separate portion of a dish counting as a piece, a covered butter dish with loose drain plate is three pieces, a soup tureen with ladle, three.

Among the new designs in granite are small chrysanthemum sprays, in continuous or all over pattern. A style with plain colored rim or band, and colored flowers in contrasting shade has been much admired. Very small patterns or lines like lathe work are shown on some new sets. This is arranged in bands or rims, and is very effective.



PORTIERE, DESIGNED BY MR. JOSEPH FLEMING.